मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री एस० कृष्ण कुमार) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Increase in the domestic crude production

1272. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHRAMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic crude production rate would go up by 10 million tonnes in the next five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the O.N.G.C. has been pruning production targets from 33 million tonnes to 30.8 and further to 30.3 m.t.;

(c) if so, reasons for pruning the target; and

(d) the steps proposed to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The production of crude is expected to increase. The targets for the next five years have not been finalised.

(b) to (d) There has been a shortfall of 2.66 million tonnes approximately in crude oil production in 1990-91 against the target of 33 million tonnes.

Gas agencies to SCs and STs

1273. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Petition Committee of the Rajya Sabha has in its 96th report recommended that gas agencies to those SC/ST Gas distributors should be restored, whose agencies had been cancelled without giving any show cause notice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 127 gas agencies of such SC/ST gas distributors were cancelled;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his predecessor had ordered the Ministry to restore these agencies at the earliest; and

(d) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative by when these agencies are likely to be restored ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Out of the 6 cases ordered for restoration, 2 LPG distributorships had already been revived by IOC on their own. The remaining 4 LPG distributorships were restored as per orders of Government.

Loss of crude due to fire in Gujarat

1274. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATUAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the result of the fire-fighting operation at the Gujarat oil wells and capping of the well;

(b) the cause of the fire and when it was extinguished alongwith the loss of crude oil production in terms of quantity and money;

(c) whether a fire had occurred previously also at the same site;

(d) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission sought the Army help to put out the fire ; and

(e) the remedial measures taken to prevent such fires?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The fire fighting operations are in progress.

(b) Pilferage is the likely cause of fire. Approximately 400 tonnes of crude oil per day, valued at approximately Rs. 9 lakhs, is being lost.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) ONGC have reported that surveillance and security arrangements have been strengthened.